

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant on January 15, 2008, without traverse.

3. **Please Cancel claims 1, and 3.**

4. **In claim 2**, line 1, after "claim", please delete [1] and insert --- **10** ---.

5. **In claim 4**, line 1, after "claim", please delete [1] and insert --- **10** ---.

6. **In claim 6**, line 1, after "claim", please delete [1] and insert --- **10** ---.

7. **In Claim 11**, last line after "localizers", insert --- **the method further comprising: enhancing said borders using said location of borders and delivering a sequence of enhanced images, and displaying said sequence of images, wherein displaying also comprises registering a sequence of reference images with respect to said sequence of enhanced images so as to form a new sequence of enhanced images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined ---**.

8. In Claim 12, last line after “localizers”, insert --- **the device further comprising:  
means for enhancing said borders using said location of borders and  
delivering a sequence of enhanced images, and means for displaying said  
sequence of images, wherein displaying means also comprise local registering  
means for registering a sequence of reference images with respect to said  
sequence of enhanced images so as to form a new sequence of enhanced  
images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of  
reference images are combined ---**.
9. In claim 14, line 2, after “as claimed in claim” delete [1] and insert --- **10** ---.

### **Drawings**

10. The drawings were received on June 3, 2005. The examiner accepts these drawings.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

11. Applicant’s arguments, (pages 7-11), filed on October 29, 2008, and follow-on telephonic interview on January 15, 2009 and further clarification of January 16, 2009 with respect to claims 2, 4-8, and 10-14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 2, 4-8, and 10-14 have been withdrawn. Objections to claims 9

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and 10 have been removed, therefore claims 2, 4-20 (now numbered 1-18) are allowable.

**12.** The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, wherein said viewing means also comprise local registering means for registering a sequence of reference images with respect to said sequence of enhanced images so as to form a new sequence of enhanced images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined, in combination into other features and elements of **claim 9**; wherein said viewing means also comprise local registering means for registering said sequence of enhanced images with respect to a sequence of reference images so as to form a new sequence of reference images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined, in combination into other features and elements of **claim 10**; wherein displaying also comprises registering a sequence of reference images with respect to said sequence of enhanced images so as to form a new sequence of enhanced images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined, in combination into other features and elements of **claim 11**; wherein said displaying means also comprise local registering means for registering a sequence of reference images with respect to said sequence of enhanced images so as to form a new sequence of enhanced images, in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined, in combination into other features and elements of **claim 12**.

**13. Claims 2, and 4-20 (now numbered 1-18) are allowed.**

**14.** Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Citation of Relevant Prior Art**

**15.** The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kaufman et al. (US Patent 7,194,117) disclose SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A THREE-DIMENSIONAL VIRTUAL EXAMINATION OF OBJECTS, SUCH AS INTERNAL ORGANS

Kimmel et al. (US Patent 7,397,935) disclose METHOD FOR SEGMENTATION OF IVUS IMAGE SEQUENCES

Prause et al. (US Patent 6,148,095) disclose APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THREE-DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATION OF TORTUOUS VESSELS

### **Conclusion**

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**16.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehdi Rashidian whose telephone number is (571) 272-9763. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 9:00AM to 8:00PM, ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samir Ahmed can be reached on (571) 272-7413. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mehdi Rashidian/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2624  
January 16, 2009

/Samir A. Ahmed/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624